

What is Claimed is:

[c1] A Thermodynamic Simulated Annealing Schedule to ease Simulated Annealing (SA) application in solving combinatorial optimization problems, where the temperature is updated after each local transformation as:

- a) the initial temperature while either the global cost variation is positive or all previous probabilities of acceptance are equal to one.
- b) proportional to the global cost-decrement achieved at this moment divided by the sum over all previous iterations of the natural logarithm of the applied probabilities of acceptance.